



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
Mike Johns (602) 514-7566

SEVEN INDICTED IN INSURANCE SCAM

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on April 11, 2002, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a 63 count indictment against Newcombe Rafael Sosa, d.o.b. 12/10/51, of Phoenix, Arizona; and also including multiple counts against co-defendants Lazaro L. Martinez De Pinillos, d.o.b. 12/15/54, of Glendale, AZ; Jesus Soto, d.o.b. 12/2/57, of Los Angeles, CA.; Cynthia A. Moody, d.o.b. 11/10/61, of Hampton, GA; Ulises C. Sosa, d.o.b. 10/25/45, of Forest Park, GA; Elias Cisneros, d.o.b. 4/5/52, of Los Angeles, CA; and Lilian Anavisca, d.o.b. 7/7/78, of Los Angeles, CA.

The indictment alleges that between April 1997 and May 2000, the defendant Newcombe Rafael Sosa, while employed as a claims adjuster and then later as office claims manager for the Platinum Claims Service, Inc., Tempe, AZ devised a scheme to defraud the National American Insurance Company and Jefferson Insurance Group by inserting false claimants into the claims files arising from legitimate automobile accidents. Sosa is alleged to have created false chiropractic reports on behalf of the false claimants and inserted their names into the insurance company copy of the police reports as well as recorded fictitious demands from the false claimants in the insurance company case logs. The indictment states that once having substantiated the appearance of a normal claim, Sosa allegedly recruited others, including his co-defendants, to sign releases of liability to support the issuance of insurance company checks in settlement

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of the false claims. According to the indictment, Sosa misrepresented to his coworkers that he had settled the claims in order to obtain their signatures on the checks that were mailed to the false claimants. The indictment further alleges that each of the co-defendants either deposited their own fraudulent checks or those of other fraudulent claimants into their individual bank accounts. The indictment contains a list of losses to the insurance companies in excess of \$346,000.00.

The last count of the indictment charges Sosa with using a false social security account number to obtain employment with Platinum Claims.

Sosa was arrested on the charges today, and his co-defendants have been summoned to an arraignment in federal district court on April 24, 2002.

The federal indictment charges each defendant with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1341, Mail Fraud. Sosa is additionally charged with a violation of Title 42 of the United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B), Fraudulent Use of a Social Security Account Number..

A conviction for each count of Mail Fraud or Fraudulent Use of a Social Security Account Number carries a maximum penalty of 5 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Investigators of the United States Attorney's Office.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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